Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-19 (Cancelled)

20. (new) A method for trading a derivative financial instrument, the instrument being based on a product, the method comprising:

receiving buy orders and sell orders for the instrument;

calculating a price for the instrument based on the buy and sell orders; and

executing a trade on the instrument, the instrument having an expiration date that is not determined at the time of the execution of the trade.

21. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the instrument reflects box office revenues of a movie for a particular period, the period having an undetermined starting point.

22. (new) The method of claim 20, further comprising fixing a release date for the product after the execution of the trade.

23. (new) The method of claim 22, further comprising determining the expiration date based on the release date.

24. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the product has a plurality of development stages, the method further comprising identifying a development stage of the product and adjusting the price based on the development stage of the product.

25. (new) The method of claim 24 further comprising calculating a development factor for the development stage and wherein the adjusting the price based on the development stage comprises multiplying the price by the development factor.

26. (new) The method of claim 20, further comprising receiving a first value representing an initial number of shares issued in an initial offering for the instrument.

27. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein the calculating the price comprises calculating the price for the initial offering based at least in part on the first value.

28. (new) The method of claim 26, further comprising receiving a second value representing an estimated financial performance of the product, and wherein the calculating the price further comprises calculating the price as the second value divided by the first value.

29. (new) The method of claim 20, further comprising periodically triggering an automatic trade for the instrument.

30. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein the triggering the automatic trade comprises:

      detecting a call from a timing mechanism, retrieving a buy probability constant;

      generating a random trade constant;

      if the buy probability constant exceeds the random trade constant, generating a

buy order; and

if the buy probability constant does not exceed the random trade constant,
generating a sell order.

31. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the calculating the price for the instrument comprises:

measuring a buy-sell imbalance between the buy orders and the sell orders for the instrument;

computing a projected price movement comprising:

retrieving an instrument price threshold from a database;

comparing the instrument price threshold to the buy-sell imbalance;

retrieving an instrument price increment from the database representing a quantity for price movement for the instrument; and

if the buy-sell imbalance exceeds the instrument price threshold, setting the projected price movement to the instrument price increment; and

setting a market price for the instrument by incrementing the market price by the projected price movement.

32. (new) The method of claim 31, further comprising storing a quantity representing price movement for the instrument over time.

33. (new) The method of claim 32, further comprising retrieving a stock break increment from the database.

34. (new) The method of claim 33, further comprising:

controlling the rate for price movement by periodically comparing the stock break threshold to the stored quantity representing price movement for the instrument; and

if the stored quantity price movement exceeds the stock break threshold, adjusting the stock price threshold.

35. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein the adjusting the stock price threshold comprises retrieving a stock break increment from the database and incrementing the stock price threshold by the stock break increment.

36. (new) The method of claim 35, wherein the incrementing the stock price threshold by the stock break increment comprises:

if the stored quantity representing price movement is a positive number greater than SBT, then SPT=SPT+SBI; and

if the stored quantity representing price movement is a negative number less than -SBT, then SPT=SPT-SBI, wherein SBT is the stock break threshold, SPT is the stock price threshold, and SBI is the stock break increment.

37. (new) The method of claim 32, further comprising retrieving a stock halt threshold from the database.

38. (new) The method of claim 37, further comprising:

containing price movement by periodically comparing the stock halt threshold to the stored quantity of price movement for the instrument; and

if the stored quantity of price movement exceeds the stock halt threshold, preempting trading for the instrument.

39. (new) The method of claim 32, further comprising setting the market price for a plurality of instruments after each of a plurality of trade orders are fulfilled.

40. (new) The method of claim 39, further comprising storing trade volume information and trade price information for each trade order for the plurality of instruments.

41. (new) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

receiving a query for requesting trade volume statistics for a selected instrument;

analyzing the stored trade volume information in response to the received query; and

generating and displaying the trade volume statistics for the selected instrument in response to analyzing the stored trade volume information.

42. (new) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

receiving a query for requesting buy versus sell volume statistics for a selected instrument;

analyzing the stored trade volume information and the stored trade price

information in response to the received query; and

generating and displaying the buy versus sell statistics for the selected instrument in response to the analyzing the stored trade volume information and the stored trade price information.

43. (new) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

storing a plurality of categories of trade information relating to the plurality of trade orders;

receiving a query for requesting statistics for a selected category in a selected instrument;

analyzing stored categories of trade information in response to the received query; and

generating and displaying statistical information for the selected category in the selected instrument in response to the analyzing the stored categories of trade information.

44. (new) A method for trading a derivative financial instrument, the instrument being based on a product, the method comprising:

receiving buy orders and sell orders for the instrument;

calculating a price for the instrument based on the buy and sell orders; and

executing a trade on the instrument, the instrument having an expiration date that is based on future development of the product.

45. (new) The method of claim 44, wherein the instrument reflects box office revenues of a movie for a particular period, the period having an undetermined starting point.

46. (new) The method of claim 44, further comprising fixing a release date for the product after the execution of the trade.

47. (new) The method of claim 46, further comprising determining the expiration date based on the release date.

48. (new) The method of claim 44, wherein the product has a plurality of development stages, the method further comprising identifying a development stage of the product and adjusting the price based on the development stage of the product.

49. (new) The method of claim 48, further comprising calculating a development factor for the development stage and wherein the adjusting the price based on the development stage comprises multiplying the price by the development factor.

50. (new) The method of claim 44, further comprising receiving a first value representing an initial number of shares issued in an initial offering for the instrument.

51. (new) The method of claim 50, wherein the calculating the price comprises calculating the price for the initial offering based at least in part on the first value.

52. (new) The method of claim 50, further comprising receiving a second value representing an estimated financial performance of the product, and wherein the calculating the price further comprises calculating the price as the second value divided by the first value.

53. (new) The method of claim 44, further comprising periodically triggering an automatic trade for the instrument.

54. (new) The method of claim 53 wherein the triggering the automatic trade comprises:

detecting a call from a timing mechanism, retrieving a buy probability constant;

generating a random trade constant;

if the buy probability constant exceeds the random trade constant, generating a buy order; and

if the buy probability constant does not exceed the random trade constant, generating a sell order.

55. (new) The method of claim 44, wherein the calculating the price for the instrument comprises:

measuring a buy-sell imbalance between the buy orders and the sell orders for the instrument;

computing a projected price movement comprising:

retrieving an instrument price threshold from a database;

comparing the instrument price threshold to the buy-sell imbalance;

retrieving an instrument price increment from the database representing a

quantity for price movement for the instrument; and

if the buy-sell imbalance exceeds the instrument price threshold, setting the projected price movement to the instrument price increment; and

setting a market price for the instrument by incrementing the market price by the projected price movement.

56. (new) The method of claim 55, further comprising storing a quantity representing price movement for the instrument over time.

57. (new) The method of claim 56, further comprising retrieving a stock break increment from the database.

58. (new) The method of claim 57, further comprising:

controlling the rate for price movement by periodically comparing the stock break threshold to the stored quantity representing price movement for the instrument; and

if the stored quantity price movement exceeds the stock break threshold, adjusting the stock price threshold.

59. (new) The method of claim 58, wherein the adjusting the stock price threshold comprises retrieving a stock break increment from the database and incrementing the stock price threshold by the stock break increment.

60. (new) The method of claim 59, wherein the incrementing the stock price threshold by the stock break increment comprises:

if the stored quantity representing price movement is a positive number greater than SBT, then SPT=SPT+SBI; and

if the stored quantity representing price movement is a negative number less than -SBT, then SPT=SPT-SBI, wherein SBT is the stock break threshold, SPT is the stock price threshold, and SBI is the stock break increment.

61. (new) The method of claim 56, further comprising retrieving a stock halt threshold from the database.

62. (new) The method of claim 61, further comprising:

containing price movement by periodically comparing the stock halt threshold to the stored quantity of price movement for the instrument; and

if the stored quantity of price movement exceeds the stock halt threshold, preempting trading for the instrument.

63. (new) The method of claim 56, further comprising setting the market price for a plurality of instruments after each of a plurality of trade orders are fulfilled.

64. (new) The method of claim 63, further comprising storing trade volume information and trade price information for each trade order for the plurality of instruments.

65. (new) The method of claim 64, further comprising:

receiving a query for requesting trade volume statistics for a selected instrument;

analyzing the stored trade volume information in response to the received query;

and

generating and displaying the trade volume statistics for the selected instrument in response to analyzing the stored trade volume information.

66. (new) The method of claim 64, further comprising:

receiving a query for requesting buy versus sell volume statistics for a selected instrument;

analyzing the stored trade volume information and the stored trade price information in response to the received query; and

generating and displaying the buy versus sell statistics for the selected instrument in response to the analyzing the stored trade volume information and the stored trade price information.

67. (new) The method of claim 63, further comprising:

storing a plurality of categories of trade information relating to the plurality of trade orders;

receiving a query for requesting statistics for a selected category in a selected instrument;

analyzing stored categories of trade information in response to the received query; and

generating and displaying statistical information for the selected category in the selected instrument in response to the analyzing the stored categories of trade information.

68. (new) A method for trading a derivative financial instrument, the instrument being based on revenues of a service company, the method comprising:

>receiving buy orders and sell orders for the instrument;

>calculating a price for the instrument based on the buy and sell orders; and

>executing a trade on the instrument, the instrument having an expiration date that is not determined at the time of the execution of the trade.

69. (new) The method of claim 68, further comprising determining the expiration date based on a future date after the execution of the trade.

70. (new) The method of claim 68, further comprising receiving a first value representing an initial number of securities issued in an initial offering for the instrument.

71. (new) The method of claim 70, wherein the calculating the price comprises calculating the price for the initial offering based at least in part on the first value.

72. (new) The method of claim 70, further comprising receiving a second value representing an estimated financial performance of the service company, and wherein the calculating the price further comprises calculating the price as the second value divided by the first value.

73. (new) The method of claim 68, further comprising periodically triggering an automatic trade for the instrument.

74. (new) The method of claim 73, wherein the triggering the automatic trade comprises:

detecting a call from a timing mechanism, retrieving a buy probability constant;

generating a random trade constant;

if the buy probability constant exceeds the random trade constant, generating a

buy order; and

if the buy probability constant does not exceed the random trade constant,

generating a sell order.

75. (new) The method of claim 68, wherein the calculating the price for the instrument

comprises:

measuring a buy-sell imbalance between the buy orders and the sell orders for the

instrument;

computing a projected price movement comprising:

retrieving an instrument price threshold from a database;

comparing the instrument price threshold to the buy-sell imbalance;

retrieving an instrument price increment from the database representing a

quantity for price movement for the instrument; and

if the buy-sell imbalance exceeds the instrument price threshold, setting

the projected price movement to the instrument price increment; and

setting a market price for the instrument by incrementing the market price by the

projected price movement.

76. (new) The method of claim 75, further comprising storing a quantity representing price movement for the instrument over time.

77. (new) The method of claim 76, further comprising retrieving a stock break increment from the database.

78. (new) The method of claim 77, further comprising:

controlling the rate for price movement by periodically comparing the stock break threshold to the stored quantity representing price movement for the instrument; and

if the stored quantity price movement exceeds the stock break threshold, adjusting the stock price threshold.

79. (new) The method of claim 78, wherein the adjusting the stock price threshold comprises retrieving a stock break increment from the database and incrementing the stock price threshold by the stock break increment.

80. (new) The method of claim 79, wherein the incrementing the stock price threshold by the stock break increment comprises:

if the stored quantity representing price movement is a positive number greater than SBT, then SPT=SPT+SBI; and

if the stored quantity representing price movement is a negative number less than -SBT, then SPT=SPT-SBI, wherein SBT is the stock break threshold, SPT is the stock price threshold, and SBI is the stock break increment.

81. (new) The method of claim 76, further comprising retrieving a stock halt threshold from the database.

82. (new) The method of claim 81, further comprising:

containing price movement by periodically comparing the stock halt threshold to the stored quantity of price movement for the instrument; and

if the stored quantity of price movement exceeds the stock halt threshold, preempting trading for the instrument.

83. (new) The method of claim 76, further comprising setting the market price for a plurality of instruments after each of a plurality of trade orders are fulfilled.

84. (new) The method of claim 83, further comprising storing trade volume information and trade price information for each trade order for the plurality of instruments.

85. (new) The method of claim 84, further comprising:

receiving a query for requesting trade volume statistics for a selected instrument;

analyzing the stored trade volume information in response to the received query; and

generating and displaying the trade volume statistics for the selected instrument in response to analyzing the stored trade volume information.

86. (new) The method of claim 78, further comprising:

receiving a query for requesting buy versus sell volume statistics for a selected

instrument;

        analyzing the stored trade volume information and the stored trade price information in response to the received query; and

        generating and displaying the buy versus sell statistics for the selected instrument in response to the analyzing the stored trade volume information and the stored trade price information.

        87. (new) The method of claim 83, further comprising:

        storing a plurality of categories of trade information relating to the plurality of trade orders;

        receiving a query for requesting statistics for a selected category in a selected instrument;

        analyzing stored categories of trade information in response to the received query; and

        generating and displaying statistical information for the selected category in the selected instrument in response to the analyzing the stored categories of trade information.

        88. (new) A system for trading a derivative financial instrument, the instrument being based on a product, the system configured to receive buy orders and sell orders for the instrument, to calculate a price for the instrument based on the buy and sell orders, and to execute a trade on the instrument, the instrument having an expiration date that is not determined at the time of the execution of the trade.

89. (new) The system of claim 88, wherein the instrument reflects box office revenues of a movie for a particular period, the period having an undetermined starting point.

90. (new) The system of claim 89, wherein the movie has a plurality of development stages comprising a concept stage, a development stage, a production stage, a wrap stage, and a release stage.

91. (new) The system of claim 88, wherein the system is configured to determine the expiration date based on a release date for the product.

92. (new) A system for trading a derivative financial instrument, the instrument being based on a product, the system configured to receive buy orders and sell orders for the instrument, to calculate a price for the instrument based on the buy and sell orders, and to execute a trade on the instrument, the instrument having an expiration date that is based on future development of the product.

93. (new) The system of claim 92, wherein the instrument reflects box office revenues of a movie for a particular period, the period having an undetermined starting point.

94. (new) The system of claim 93, wherein the movie has a plurality of development stages comprising a concept stage, a development stage, a production stage, a wrap stage, and a release stage.

95. (new) The system of claim 92, wherein the system is configured to determine the expiration date based on a release date for the product.

96. (new) A system for trading a derivative financial instrument, the instrument being based on revenues of a service company, the system configured to receive buy orders and sell orders for the instrument, to calculate a price for the instrument based on the buy and sell orders, and to execute a trade on the instrument, the instrument having an expiration date that is not determined at the time of the execution of the trade.